

Torrance Herald

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Winter in Torrance

Winter in Torrance is not the villainous killer which stalks the Atlantic coast and Mid-West states, but is characterized by one peril—water.

Historically, areas of the city and surrounding communities collect and store large amounts of water during the winter rains which are normal to Southern California, and this ponded water is a magnet for adventurous youngsters of the city.

Late last month, a 6-year-old boy from Whittier wandered away from the home he was visiting, climbed aboard a raft on a North Torrance pond, fell and was drowned.

In the days that followed the tragedy, parents in the area around the ponded water demanded strict measures on the part of the city and property owners to install barriers which would make the areas childproof.

Owner of the property in question moved immediately as did the city to eliminate the hazard. Owners of such other property in the city have a moral—and probably legal—obligation to eliminate such hazards, or reduce them to the minimum possible.

Overlooked, however, in the clamor that followed the death of the Whittier boy, is the equal obligation of parents to exercise all possible care in training children about the hazards of such areas, and then maintain a close watch over their activities at all times.

Several in the audience laughed when Councilman Willis Blount said he or Mrs. Blount knew where their children were at all times during a recent Council meeting, but other parents since have agreed that they, too, make it a policy of knowing where their children spend their time.

While it is incumbent on the city and private property owners to provide all reasonable safeguards on potentially hazardous areas, it is not their responsibility to provide babysitting service. The parents must do that.

From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald

The other morning I took my son to school, high school, and the Torrance High band was out in front of the school playing the Star Spangled Banner and almost all the youngsters in the vicinity were standing as the flag was raised. It was a good sight to see.

I did some telephoning and found that the custom has been practiced for some two years and was the idea of the students and last year was officially recognized by the school board. I think it would be a good idea to give these really patriotic kids some credit.

Nowadays when the atmosphere is loaded with small men making big noises and yelling, "Look and see how patriotic I am," the sight of some real patriots, particularly teenagers, gives me a good goose-pimpling feeling and a realization that the majority of the rock 'n' roll generation is a fairly responsible lot.

I am going to go back in front of the school every once in a while at 8 a.m. when I need a little cheering up. I hope to see a few more of the Torrance kids, too. See you there.

BILL BRASE
1736 Cabrillo

Editor, Torrance Herald

Both as a member of the League of Women Voters and as the newly elected president of the provisional League in Torrance, I thank you for your very fine editorial in the League in the 25 February edition of your paper.

It was a most warm welcome to Torrance for us. I was so excited and pleased by your knowledge of the League that I used a quotation from it as the basis for a few remarks on the following night. Many of our members and guests mentioned having read the editorial and it has made us all quite proud.

As Ronnie Saunders has probably told you, the League has been and will continue to do an analysis of the Torrance community. This is a preliminary study before we do an analysis in depth of this community. This latter, more detailed study will be published and made available to the community, eventually. Meanwhile, our preliminary study will be mimeographed and I hope to send you a copy within the month.

Once again, the League's earnest thanks for all your good wishes and cooperation.

MRS. ALBERT NADEL

James Dorais

Post Office Rates Top Mark for Inefficiency

After two decades of inflation, any American business you can think of charges considerably more for its services or products than it used to.

At the same time, with one

notable exception, services and products have been vastly improved. That exception is the big business run exclusively by the Federal Government—the U.S. Post Office.

Under the latest plan for rate increases now before Congress, it will cost 5 cents to mail a first class letter. In 1932, the old rate of 2 cents was advanced to 3 cents, and hiked again to the present 4 cent rate in 1958. Air mail letters, which cost 5 cents in 1946, were advanced to 6 cents in 1949 and to 7 cents in 1958. If Congress approves, the rate will increase again to 8 cents.

Post cards, which cost only 1 cent to mail in 1961, 2 cents in 1952 and 3 cents since 1958, are scheduled to go up to 4 cents—a whopping 400 per cent increase in 10 years.

But what about service? Thirty years ago, there were 48,700 post offices; today there are only 35,000 a reduction of 13,700. Despite an ever increasing volume of mail, more consolidations of offices are planned. Thousands of obsolete offices need replacement; New York City, for example, hasn't had a new post office plant in 50 years.

Twice-a-day delivery to residences was stopped 12 years ago, corner boxes are less frequently picked up, and former post office policy of con-

sulting directories to redirect improperly addressed letters has been abandoned.

Elimination of Saturday deliveries is rumored in the offing.

Hand operations for collecting, sorting and delivering mail, in use for 100 years and more, remain virtually unchanged. Some abortive attempts have been made to introduce automation on a pilot basis, but they have been abandoned after unsuccessful trial runs.

Despite sharp rate increases, Post Office receipts fall far behind expenses each year. The deficit for the last fiscal year was \$826 million, up \$261 million from the deficit 10 years ago. Every year since 1945, Congress has had to balance the Post Office's books by tapping the taxpayers.

If Congress approves the new increases, users of the mails will have to pay about 700 million dollars more annually than before. This huge increase, however, is less than the present annual deficit, and a large portion of the rate increase—possibly 40 per cent or more—is expected to be offset by wage increase for postal employees.

The history of the Post Office illustrates the great "advantage" of nationalizing an industry: no matter how much money it loses, it can't go broke.

ROYCE BRIER

We're Up to Our Necks In People, Report Says

That estimate of population Reference Bureau that the earth has been 77 billion human beings (of whom 4 per cent are now living) necessarily lacked detail in the news dispatches, and this is an effort to remedy it.

The figure seems high to the writer, but he is not an expert. The expert took 600,000 B.C. as a baseline for the appearance of true men. The race is then divided into three periods: the Old Stone Age running to 6,000 B.C., the second through a metals age and civilization to 1650 A.D., and a third modern period.

The primitives were held to a hunting and gathering economy, and for half a million years their numbers are guessed at 12 billion. The earth's population, 6,000 B.C., is put at 5 billion. This would be after 30,000 short generations, for early death was the fate of most of the primitives.

Improvement of tools, invention of fixed agriculture and recession of the ice caps uncovering vast northern land areas greatly increased the human number. Grain and irrigation supported considerable populations in Egypt, Mesopotamia and China, and tillers of the soil began to move into Europe.

The Roman Empire in the Augustan Age is put at 54 million, about half of Europe, and the world total is 250 million. But in the Dark Ages following there were severe setbacks, in Europe and Plague, and there is little human increase up to 1,000 A.D. Then the earth's population doubled in the next four centuries. The Plague continued, but immunity to it developed. Crop rotation began, greatly increasing food supply, and there was a universal rise of the capacity of the human being to subsist.

At about 1600, China is

4 Bookman's Notebook

Master of the Cliche Shows Talent Once More

William Hogan

The other day I remarked to a bright young lady who happened to drop a cliché that she reminded me of Frank Sullivan's Mr. Arbuthnot. Neither name registered. Is there a generation among us that does not know about Frank Sullivan (he still writes those rhymed Christmas greetings for The New Yorker), or Mr. Arbuthnot, the cliché expert, one of Sullivan's most famous characters?

In these days of vanishing humorists, I am happy to report one of this season's best paperback bets, "A Rock in Every Snowball," by Frank Sullivan (Gosset - Universal; \$1.45). These 48 pieces by the Sage of Saratoga arrive as an added breath of spring.

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Sullivan, now 70, does not publish as frequently as he once did. These pieces are mostly from The New Yorker of the 1930s and '40s, a period when Sullivan was the best slapstick artist writing, and right up there with Robert Benchley as a wry and effective commentator on his times.

"A Rock in Every Snowball" includes such one well-known Sullivan pieces as "The Rape of the Grape," "Gentlemen Should Smell Pretty, Too," and other favorites, along with Mr. Arbuthnot who testifies here on politics, the air and atomic energy. A sampling:

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"Q—Mr. Arbuthnot, how ready is man for the Atomic Age?"

"A—As ready as a child is to handle dynamite."

"Q—What kind of little boys do the atomic scientists remind you of?"

"A—Of little boys playing with matches."

"Q—What is the possibility of the future?"

"A—Atomic bombs, a hundred times more destructive than the one dropped on Nagasaki."

"Q—What is such a discovery known as?"

"A—It is known as man's conquest of natural forces."

"Q—What does such a discovery advance?"

"A—It advances the frontiers of science."

"Q—And what does the invention of this key to world suicide constitute?"

"A—It constitutes scientific progress . . ."

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For the information of members of a younger and perhaps less amused generation, this collection follows

Quote

About April 15 each year, we find we owe our success to Uncle Sam." — John L. Teets, Richmond (West Va.) Nicholas Republican.

"The Night the Old Nostalgia Burned Down," another Operation Sullivan that Grosset-Universal published last fall. It's probably still around.

Notes on the Margin . . .

"Ishi in Two Worlds," the fascinating anthropological study by Theodor Kroeber published last fall by UC Press, continues to be a winner in the marketplace. Publishers' Weekly reports that there are 39,000 copies in print and it is still climbing. I remember when the schol-

arly UC Press, with an original print order of 4,000, pondered over its chances in a wild commercial gamble to 15,000 additional copies of this one. Happily it went for broke, and has a best-seller on its hands.

Three historical novels by Walter D. Edmond, are published in one volume, "Three Stalwarts." They include "Drums Along the Mohawk," "Rome Haul," and "Erie Water" (Atlantic-Little, Brown; \$6.95).

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

"We've heard it will be difficult to get hotel rooms for the Seattle World's Fair . . ."

Usually these Fairs crowd a town all right. But I haven't heard of much shortage. They've got a good clearing house in EXPO-LODGING SERVICE, INC., 312 First Avenue North, Seattle, Wash.

Name your price range. They'll clear your reservations. It's free.

Probably a good idea to buy your Fair tickets in advance—it's a 40 per cent discount, for one good reason: \$6.50 for a \$10 book today, \$3.75 for a child's \$6.50 book. Gives you two admissions, two entertainment events and other things. Good only until March 17. Write Travel Information, 458 Post St., San Francisco.

"Can you tell me what it will cost us to rent a car for three weeks in Europe?"

AAA estimates \$275 for three weeks with 2,450 miles, gasoline, garage costs, documents, and insurance.

They rate food costs per person at \$5-\$8 a day. Hotels from \$6 to \$10.

I figure a rough \$35-\$40 a day for everything for two. You might think of where you are going. France is expensive and Italy is getting that way. Britain, Switzerland, and Germany are moderate.

The cheapest countries are Ireland, Austria, Spain, and Portugal.

"We are honeymooning in Hawaii the last weeks of August—on a limited budget. Can you suggest a Waikiki beach hotel? How are those weeks in Hawaii?"

The Waikikian, the Kalihl, and the Reef are excellent hotels. Not too expensive. The Hawaiian Visitors Bureau, Hawaii, will send you a sheaf of information and prices.

The last two weeks in August are crowded. If you could put it off until school starts again, you'll find more room on the beach.

"Is a camping trip possible in Europe? We are confirmed campers and have all our equipment . . ."

I've never done it. But camping is big with everybody on the Continent. There are 1,800 camping sites in Europe. Pretty organized stuff though. This is no back-to-the-woods stuff.

Better check the weight on that camping equipment. Overweight on the airlines to Europe can murder you (44 pounds allowed free in tourist, 66 pounds in first-class).

"We have noticed information in your column that is not included in our itineraries. Please give us some ideas for small souvenir presents in Rome . . ."

The Florentine silver here is very good—deeply carved, ornate stuff in cigarette cases and lighters. (They make a case that fits a Zippo.)

If any of your friends are Catholics, I'd get some rosaries and take them to be blessed at one of the Papal public audiences. (The desk man at your hotel can tell you the right days.)

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

Morning Report:

There's more to a postage stamp than meets the eye. Concentrating on the tongue side, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing modestly admitted it has reached the "epitome of success." Using invisible Beta Rays, it discovered the right amount of glue to be used.

This is a great scientific breakthrough. And nobody knows how many gallant human guinea pigs licked stamps before it was reached.

But stamps are still falling off envelopes. Science has whipped the glue problem but not the human problem. The Government is forced to reveal that some customers are still licking too hard.

Abe Mellinkoff

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Can we use the bomb shelter for our party, Dad?"

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